

What Is Claimed Is:

Sub A' 1 A method for providing remote performance management to increase the
2 performance of applications executing in a distributed fashion within a computer
3 network, comprising the steps of:

4 (1) receiving a request from a server within the computer network,
5 said request specifying an application and the address of a client within said
6 computer network;

7 (2) connecting to said client within said computer network;

8 (3) downloading, to said client, application data that contains profile
9 information about said application; and

10 (4) downloading, to said client, control logic capable of using the
11 information in said application data to determine a set of modifications to said
12 client;

13 wherein said client can apply said control logic to make said set of
14 modifications thereby allowing said application to more fully utilize the
15 processing capabilities of the nodes within the computer network.

2 2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (1) is performed in response to said
server receiving a request from said client for content via said application.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said set of modifications include at least
2 one of the following:

3 (i) modifications to said application executing on said client;

4 (ii) modifications to the operating system running on said client; and

5 (iii) modifications to the hardware within said client.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer network is at least a
2 portion of the Internet.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the address of said client is an Internet
2 Protocol (IP) address.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said control logic downloaded to said
2 client in step (4) is contained in a Java applet capable of making said set of
3 modification by making a call to a dynamically linked library (DLL) on said
4 server.

1 7. A method for providing a user with remote performance management
2 capabilities to increase the performance of applications executing in a distributed
3 fashion within a computer network, comprising the steps of:

4 (1) receiving a selection input from the user via a graphical user
5 interface, said selection specifying a client within the computer network and an
6 application that executes within the computer network;

7 (2) accessing an application database that contains profile data on said
8 application;

9 (3) accessing a system database that contains configuration data about
10 said client within the computer network;

11 (4) accessing control logic that uses said application data and said
12 system data to determine a set of modifications;

13 (5) connecting to said client; and

14 (6) downloading, to said client, said application data and a portion of
15 said control logic;

16 wherein said client can apply said portion of said control logic to make
17 said set of modifications thereby allowing said application to more fully utilize
18 the processing capabilities of the nodes within the computer network.

1 8. The method of claim 8, wherein said computer network is at least a
2 portion of the Internet.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
2 accessing a security database to determine whether the user is authorized to
3 perform the selection of step (1).

4 10. A system for providing remote performance management to increase the
5 performance of applications executing in a distributed fashion within a computer
6 network, comprising:

7 (a) an application database that contains profile information on an
8 application that executes within the computer network;

9 (b) a system database that contains configuration information about
10 a client computer within the computer network;

11 (c) control logic that uses said application database and said system
12 database to determine a set of modifications;

13 (d) means for receiving a request from a content server within the
14 computer network, said request specifying said application and the address of said
15 client computer;

16 (e) means for connecting to said client computer; and

17 (f) means for downloading, to said client computer, data from said
18 application database and a portion of said control logic;

19 wherein said client computer can apply said portion of said control logic
20 to make said set of modifications thereby allowing said application to more fully
21 utilize the processing capabilities of the nodes within the computer network.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein said computer network is at least a
2 portion of the Internet.

1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein said set of modifications include at least
2 one of the following:

3 (i) modifications to said application executing on said client
4 computer;

5 (ii) modifications to the operating system running on said client
6 computer; and

7 (iii) modifications to the hardware within said client computer.

1 13. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium
2 having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to provide remote
3 performance management to increase the performance of applications executing
4 in a distributed fashion within a computer network, said control logic comprising:

5 first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to
6 receive a request from a server within the computer network, said request
7 specifying an application and the address of a client within said computer
8 network;

9 second computer readable program code means for causing the computer
10 to connect to said client within said computer network;

11 third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to
12 download, to said client, application data that contains profile information about
13 said application;

14 fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer
15 to download, to said client, control logic capable of using the information in said
16 application data to determine a set of modifications to said client;

17 wherein said client can apply said control logic to make said set of
18 modifications thereby allowing said application to more fully utilize the
19 processing capabilities within the computer network.

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1 16. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium
2 having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to provide a user with
3 remote performance management capabilities to increase the performance of
4 applications executing in a distributed fashion within a computer network, said
5 control logic comprising:

6 first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to
7 receive a selection input from the user via a graphical user interface, said
8 selection specifying a client within the computer network and an application that
9 executes within the computer network;

10 second computer readable program code means for causing the computer
11 to access an application database that contains profile data on said application;

12 third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to
13 access a system database that contains configuration data about said client within
14 the computer network;

15 fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer
16 to access control logic that uses said application data and said system data to
17 determine a set of modifications;

18 fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to
19 connect to said client; and

20 sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to
21 download, to said client, said application data and a portion of said control logic;

22 wherein said client can apply said portion of said control logic to make
23 said set of modifications thereby allowing said application to more fully utilize
24 the processing capabilities of the nodes within the computer network.